

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
30 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

Makarios, after a marathon negotiating session last night which Mr. Vance described as "a unique experience," accepted in principle the agreement for settling the crisis. Execution of the agreement, however, must await an appeal by U Thant to all parties to reach an accord.

Tensions on the island eased somewhat yesterday. The Greek military posture has been reduced to a simple "state of readiness." Turkish forces are still on high alert, but Ankara has publicly stated its hope for a peaceful settlement.

2. South Vietnam

There are rumblings of discontent about the new government from some of the senior generals. Most of the complaining seems to be coming from Ky's followers who feel they got short-changed when appointments were made. They also charge that some of the new civilian appointees are soft on Communists. Thus far, the discontent does not seem to pose any imminent threat to political stability.

3. South Korea

Yesterday, opposition members entered the National Assembly for the first time in five months. But the opposition will not come back meekly. They will make things stormy by demanding amendment of some recent legislation as well as early action on the promises the government made in order to end the boycott.

4. Yemen

Republican forces, under heavy pressure from the royalists, are said to be almost out of ammunition. Also, the royalists have surrounded some republican commandos and seized a mountain near Sana.

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5. Organization of American States

Yesterday the OAS, in an unprecedented fourth ballot, failed again to elect a secretary general. The Panamanian candidate did pick up another vote, but is still two short of the necessary twelve. Galo Plaza of Ecuador gained one vote, for a total of six.

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6. Australia

The Holt government stands to lose three senate seats, according to almost complete returns from Sunday's elections. Government policies are not in danger since the prime minister's party dominates the House of Representatives. The vote does, however, show some public dissatisfaction, principally over the government's lack of firmness and direction.

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7. Communist China

Peking says it has lifted all restrictions on members of the British mission there, and that British dependents are free to leave China.

This is another step in reciprocal efforts to tone down tension. Early last week the British relaxed restraints on Chinese diplomats in London. Then on Sunday, after four weeks of talks, the two countries reached an informal agreement concerning the Hong Kong border. Individuals arrested on both sides of the frontier were released, and the British reopened a border crossing. The Chinese, however, made no firm commitment to prevent further incidents along the border.

8. Belgium

Foreign Minister Harmel says that pressure in Parliament has forced him to schedule an open debate on Vietnam to begin in the senate today. Harmel is sure some kind of resolution calling for a US bombing halt will emerge, but claims to have warned parliamentary leaders not to pass a "one-sided" resolution. Ambassador Knight believes Harmel will in fact support US policy, at least in public, but might agree to a resolution asking for the three upcoming truce periods to be extended into one long pause.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Communist Front Calls for World-wide Vietnam
Protest Demonstrations: The Communist front World
Federation of Democratic Youth has called for large-
scale demonstrations of "solidarity" with the Viet Cong
on 20 December. At a 24 November press conference in
Budapest, the chairman of the federation asked "pro-
gressive youth of the world" to demonstrate on the an-
niversary of the founding of the Liberation Front.

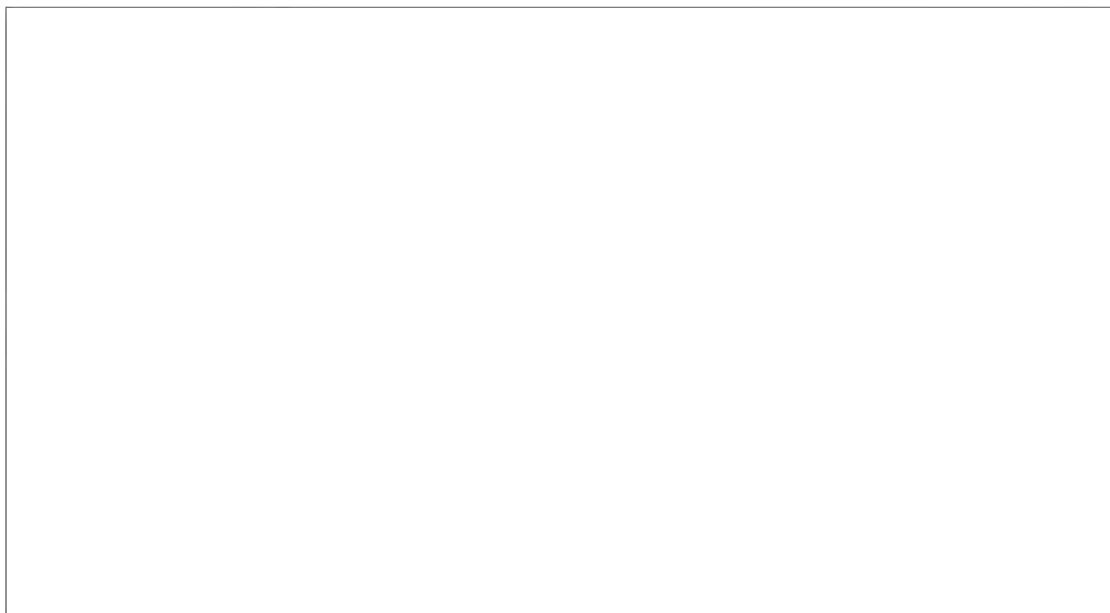
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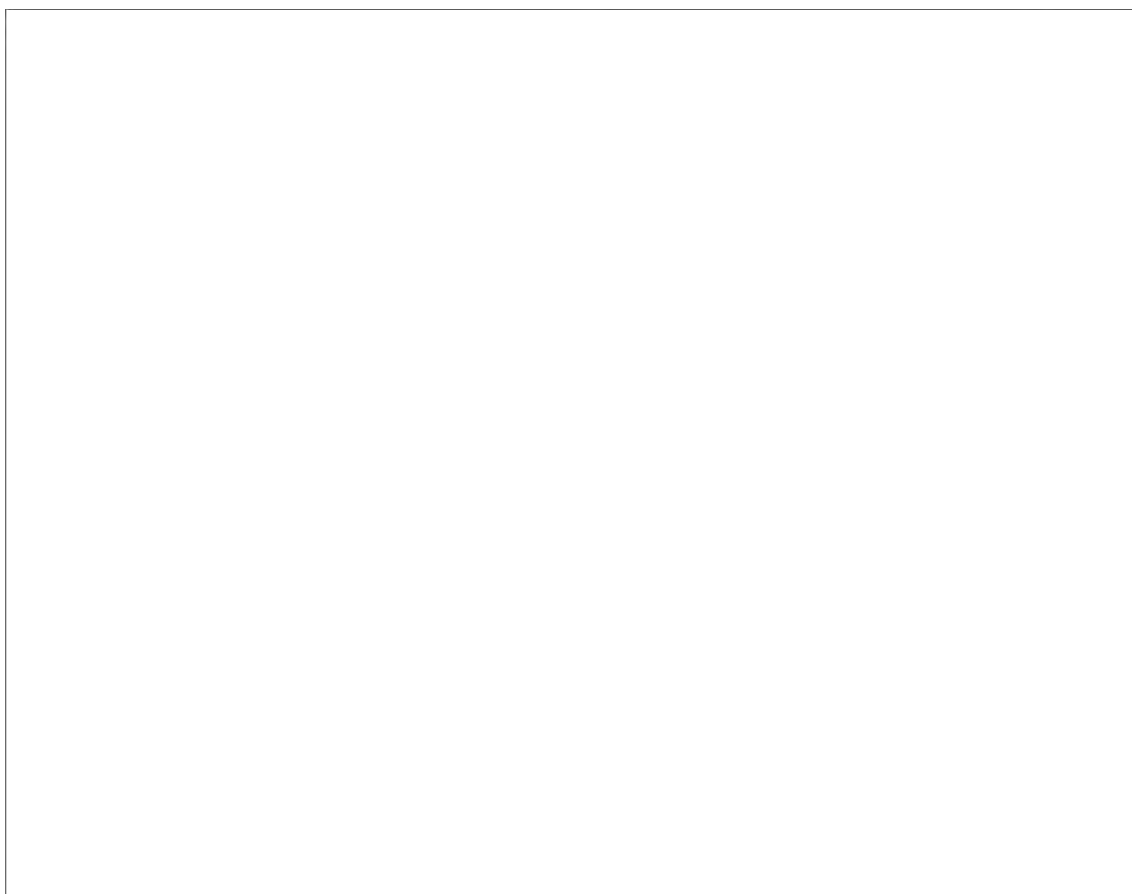
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Hails Former US Servicemen who Oppose War: The Hanoi daily Nhan Dan welcomed the denunciation of "US war crimes" by American soldiers who had served in Vietnam as a "courageous act in defense of justice," according to a 29 November Hanoi international broadcast in English. The paper was referring to former American troops who testified at the Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal in Copenhagen and to the four American sailors from the Intrepid. Nhan Dan claimed these actions demonstrate the "continual development" of the US antiwar movement. In addition, the paper asserted that the actions reflect the failure of the US Government to "deceive" the American people about the war and are a "hard slap in the face" to President Johnson.

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Hanoi Quotes Critics: Hanoi has broadcast in Vietnamese the full text of a 24 November army newspaper commentary on antiadministration sentiment in the US and its effect on the 1968 presidential elections. The full version contains the same thesis noted earlier: the decisive factor for victory is the Communists' ability to defeat the US. Hanoi views antiwar protests in the US and criticism of administration policy as important but not crucial in influencing US war policy. The paper stresses that whatever the result of the presidential election, US policy on the war would not change.

The commentary contains one of the most detailed lists of statements on the war by prominent US officials. Senator Robert Kennedy, described as a "dangerous rival of Johnson," is quoted as saying, "the Vietnamese war cannot be won." Senator Thruston Morton's

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statement that the war has caused the Vietnamese people to hate the Americans is noted, as is Senator Javits' call for an investigation of the Saigon government to see if it deserves further aid from the US.

On the issue of negotiations, the paper cites Walt Rostow and Barry Goldwater as advocating a fight to the end at any cost. Senators Morse, Fulbright, and Gruening are reported calling for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam. The paper also reports what it termed a list of "Johnson's closest collaborators who have decided to quit due to their differences of views." Included in the listing are Bill Moyers, Arthur Sylvester, McGeorge Bundy, and George Ball. In this regard, Hanoi quotes Western news sources on 29 November to the effect that the President "might dismiss" Secretary of Defense McNamara because of differences between them on the strategy for the war.

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